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NOTES AND NEWS.

THOMAS EDWARDS SLEVIN, an Associate of the American Ornithologist's Union, died at his home in San Francisco on December 23, 1902, in his 32nd year. He was born in New York City on January 20, 1871. A year of his early childhood was spent in France. In 1878 he removed with his parents to San Francisco. He came of a race of students, both on his mother's side, Bruguière, and on his father's side. His father, Thomas Edwards Slevin, LL. D., was vice-president of the Geographical Society of the Pacific.

The genius to make collections was strongly developed in the Slevin family. Mr. Slevin's grandfather gathered a large library, and his father collected the Slevin Library of works relating chiefly to the Pacific coast — now a part of the public library of San Francisco.

Mr. Slevin's interest in birds dated from his thirteenth year, when he made his first attempt at forming a collection. In later years, he attained a very high degree of skill in the preparation of specimens; in the smaller birds, his specimens, for durability and beauty of finish, are not excelled by the work of the leading preparators in this country. To the very last he was eager to improve in his methods. His collection of birds numbered about three thousand specimens, and was built up in leisure moments after office hours, on holidays, and during vacations. It is now incorporated with the study series of the California Academy of Sciences and is a monument to his earnest effort.

Mr. Slevin received his school education at St. Ignatius College, San Francisco. From his father and mother, he learned to speak French fluently. He was a member of the California Academy of Sciences, its Section of Ornithology, and the Cooper Ornithological Club.

He had in a marked degree that inborn gift to recognize at a glance and remember the differences in specimens. An exotic species once seen, its characters were indelibly fixed in his mind. If ornithology had been to him a profession, rather than his recreation, he would have attained distinction as a systematic ornithologist. He loved ornithology for the sake of ornithology — not for scientific eminence or for position. Within a few days of his death, in the closing hours of a long, painful illness, he had his mother read to him the bird portion of 'North American Fauna No. 22,' which had just reached him. Two days before the end, he told me, with a smile, that Ridgway had come, meaning he had received Part II of 'The Birds of North and Middle America.'

Mr. Slevin's preëminent characteristic was truthfulness; he was a man whose word could be absolutely relied upon.—L. M. L.

GEORGE H. READY, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at his home in Santa Cruz, California, March 20, 1903, in his 45th year. From a notice of Mr. Ready in 'The Condor' (V, p. 82) we learn that he was born in Placerville, Placer County, California, August 5, 1858, but while still a boy went to Santa Cruz, which became his permanent home. "Four years ago, from overwork and exposure, he contracted a cold from which he never recovered. He spent several years in Phoenix, Arizona, hoping the dry air of that region would restore his health. But he afterwards wisely concluded that the comforts of a home in Santa Cruz would be a greater solace and quite as likely a restorer . . . He was an amateur ornithologist, and the birds of the region in and about Santa Cruz and Phoenix were his familiar friends, few knowing their haunts as well as he."

MRS. E. S. MOGRIDGE, well known in this country and in England as a modeler of plant accessories for bird groups, and for groups illustrating the life history of insects injurious to forest trees, died at Springfield, Mass., April 5, 1903. While at this writing we know little of her early personal history, it is proper that some record should be here made of her services to science, through her facsimile reproductions of foliage, flowers, and other plant accessories for various American Museums. In this she was assisted by her brother, Mr. H. Mintorn. They first worked on accessories for insect groups for Lord Walsingham, and for bird groups at the South Kensington Museum, London, where, about 1885 or 1886, their work attracted the attention of Mr. Morris K. Jesup, President of the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Mrs. Mogridge frequently visited New York, where she had many friends, and

while on a visit here in 1877, arrangements were made with her to assist in the preparation of bird groups, and later insect groups, for the American Museum, and she was thus engaged, with her brother, at intervals during the remainder of her life. Other museums also profited by her skill, including the U. S. Department of Agriculture at Washington, the Carnegie Museum at Pittsburgh, the Field Columbian Museum at Chicago, the Brooklyn Institute, and the Natural History Museum at Springfield, Mass., where she left uncompleted work. The late Mrs. R. L. Stuart of New York City was one of her warm friends and patrons, Mrs. Stuart generously providing the means for the construction of a large series of bird groups for the American Museum. Mrs. Mogridge was a woman of rare skill in her special line of work, exceedingly conscientious, and personally a most agreeable and cultured woman. The last twenty years of her life were passed in America, with occasional visits to England. She imparted her art to a considerable number of students, who came to her for instruction, so that the kind of work she first introduced in this country is now carried on at quite a number of our larger museums.

THE ATLANTIC SLOPE NATURALIST, edited and published bimonthly at Nazereth, Pa., by W. E. Rotzell, M. D., is among the later new aspirants to fame, of which two numbers have thus far appeared, No. 1, for March-April, and No. 2, for May-June. Although general in scope, as its name implies, the first two numbers are mainly ornithological, and contain bird notes of general interest. The editorial announcement states that "It will be devoted to natural history in general and that of the Eastern United States in particular." It is intended as "a medium through which observations may be recorded, opinions may be expressed, questions may be asked, and specimens announced for exchange." The subscription price is 30 cts. a year.

A NEW journal called 'The Zoölogical Quarterly' has made its appearance, Volume I, No. 1, bearing date May 15, 1903. It is edited by H. A. Surface, M. S., Economic Zoölogist of the Department of Agriculture of Pennsylvania, and is to be issued quarterly from his office at Harrisburg, Pa., as an official medium of publication.

The first number, also bears the title 'Zoölogical Circular, No. 1,' and carries the general title 'Birds around the Farm,' with the subheadings: 'I. Bird Houses and Nesting Sites' (illustrated); 'II. Their Economic Value, Destruction and Preservation'; 'III. Bird Study: Its Educational Value and Methods.'

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club was held at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, January 2, 1903.

Sixteen meetings were held during 1902, with an average attendance of eighteen; forty-six members attending one or more of the meetings during the year.

The Club has undertaken a study of the spring bird migration in the Delaware Valley with very satisfactory results and by soliciting the coöperation of any competent observers has brought itself in touch with a large number of bird students not included in its membership.

The more important papers of the year were, 'Gulls and Terns of the Maine Coast,' by W. L. Baily; 'The Gormantown Grackle Roost,' by A. C. Emlen; 'A Trip to Chihuahua, Mex.,' by Dr. W. E. Hughes; 'An Expedition to southern New Mexico,' by J. A. G. Rehn; 'Some Old Testament Birds,' by S. N. Rhoads; 'The 1902 Flight of White Herons,' by W. B. Evans.

The second number of 'Cassinia,' covering the proceedings of 1902, was issued in February.

The officers for the present year are: President, C. J. Pennock; Vice-President, Wm. A. Shryock; Secretary, Wm. B. Evans; Treasurer, Stewardson Brown.

THE FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union was held in Lincoln, Neb., January 24, 1903, on which occasion the following papers were read: President's address — 'Birds and Man,' Rev. J. M. Bates; 'Educational Value of Bird Study,' Mrs. C. S. Lobingier; 'Devices for Interesting Children in Bird Study,' Miss Anna Caldwell; 'Observations on the Number of Birds to the Square Mile in Custer County,' Rev. J. M. Bates; 'The Crow in Nebraska,' Wilson Tout; 'The Birds of the Niobrara Valley,' Myron Swenk; 'Birds of Cherry County, Neb.,' Dr. R. H. Wolcott; 'Remarks on a Record of Nebraska Ornithology,' Dr. R. H. Wolcott.

The following officers were elected: President, F. H. Shoemaker, Omaha; Vice-President, Miss Anna Caldwell, Lincoln; Corresponding Secretary, J. C. Crawford, Jr., West Point; Recording Secretary and Editor (permanent), Dr. R. H. Wolcott, University of Nebraska; Treasurer, Mr. August Eiche, Lincoln. The office of Custodian was created as a permanent office and Myron Swenk, of Lincoln, appointed to fill it.

Newly elected members raised the total membership of the society to nearly two hundred.

The presentation of a considerable amount of material, including many skins on which records are based, was reported, and it was resolved to secure, if possible, for the collection, all the material in the State, upon which the past records of the occurrence of rare birds in Nebraska had been based.

A committee was appointed to complete the formal organization of the Audubon Auxiliary and to put in definite shape terms of affiliation between it and the Union.

MR. WILLIAM H. KOBBE, Yale Forest School, New Haven, Conn., is preparing a paper entitled 'Birds in Their Relation to Forestry,' and would be very grateful for any information from the readers of 'The Auk' concerning this subject. He wishes particularly notes regarding the action of birds in the dissemination of seeds and in the destruction of injurious *forest* insects. The opinion of ornithologists in regard to the benefit or the reverse of Woodpeckers to the forest would also prove of value. All information used will of course be acknowledged by the author.

FROM THE recently published Seventh Annual Report of the New York Zoölogical Society we learn that during the year 1902 the bird collection was not sensibly increased, owing to the fact that no additional buildings or aviaries could be provided, the construction of the proposed Ostrich House having been necessarily deferred. A number of important species were added, however, and the successful breeding of several species is announced. The attempt to colonize the Osprey, through the introduction of a nest and some young birds from Gardner's Island, in a state of freedom within the Park proved a failure. As soon as the young birds acquired the power of strong flight "they flew away and failed to return." Similar efforts with young gulls were also unsuccessful. Several species of wild ducks, however, as the Wood Duck, Mallard, Widgeon, and Red-head are frequently seen about the pools in the Park and several species of herons are observed, attracted by their relatives in the great Flying Cage. The number of species in the bird collection on December 31, 1902, was 193, represented by 680 individuals.

In this same volume (pp. 154-159) the Curator of the Department of Birds, Mr. C. William Beebe, has an interesting paper entitled, 'Some Notes on the Psychology of Birds.' It is a pleasure to note that the fine opportunity here offered for this kind of research is being so intelligently utilized.

THE EGGS OF THE MOA forms the subject of an interesting paper in 'The Ibis' for April (Ibis, 1903, pp. 188-196), by Dr. A. B. Meyer, in which he gives the history and present ownership of four nearly perfect Moa's eggs, which represent three species; also four more or less imperfect eggs, and models of five others. The eight of which the localities are known are all from South Island, New Zealand. Dr. Meyer says: "Moa's eggs are very much rarer than those of *Aepyornis*, thirty-six of the latter being known, whereas only three or four perfect Moa's eggs are as yet recorded, besides a dozen or more imperfect or reconstructed specimens." The eggs vary greatly in dimensions, the largest, "a nearly perfect" egg of *Dinornis novæ-zelandiæ* Owen, in the Rowley Collection, measuring 252 by 178 mm., and a perfect egg of *Pachyornis elephantopus* φ , 195 by 135 mm. "Owen constructed the egg of *Dinornis maximus* to 412 by 326 mm."